

**CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Monday, September 24, 2007**  
**The Center of Clayton - Multipurpose Room A**

**The following members were present:**

Mimi Deem	Judy Goodman
Deb Dubin	Omri Praiss
Lori Elliott	Rich Yawitz

**Excused/Absent**

Alex Berger  
Dick Hyde  
Jill Indovino

**Also Present:**

Patty DeForrest, Director of Parks and Recreation

**Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes from the August 27 meeting were approved as read.

**Director's Report**

The ice rink contractors have begun their work and will have the ammonia suppression system ready in time for the ice rink to open in November. The Ice Rink Task Force will present to the BOA at their next meeting. They have been looking at recreational usage, the possibility of investing in a plan for better usage in the off season, and utilizing it for sports that do not have a permanent home.

The Tennis Center project is currently underway; the first 3 banks are already completed. Ms DeForrest noted that this will be a temporary fix not a long term solution. In 5-6 years they will likely be resurfaced again. This project is similar to repairing roads, it does not last forever. We may explore utilizing different surfaces in the future. Lighting is an issue at the Tennis Center. We will also be looking at making the lights higher for better visibility.

The roof will be replaced at the Aquatic Center. The leaking mushroom in the children's pool will be fixed and a new cover will be placed on the dive tank.

The Hanley House Council will review the Hanley House Historic Structures report one more time and then it will be reviewed by the BOA. Ms. DeForrest is also going to select a day for neighbors to get together and tour the house.

The change with free online registration has had a huge impact on the number of people utilizing online registration. We have conducted some larger mailings and listed the free online registration information in the brochure. Online registration has also been a huge help with phone outages. There has been a huge growth in community recreation. We have added classes such as knitting, children's computer classes, and safety classes to our program schedule.

October is a very busy month for special events in Clayton. The following events will take place this month: Big Read, Wydown Fall Festival, Jaguar event, Rock the Block, Party in the Patch and the Canine Classic. These events wrap up the years events.

The mulch pile landscaping project will take place the week of October 1. Landscaping has been installed around the sculpture and will allow for better shading around the entrance way.

The first phase of the Trailnet project is underway. The first public forum will be held on November 29<sup>th</sup> at the Heights.

We filled the Aquatic Supervisor position. Ms. Wienke who worked for the department a few years back has accepted this position. We received the Red Cross Lifesaver Community award for certifying over 2612 employees throughout the year. This is a great award.

### **Definition of a Family**

Ms. DeForrest discussed the definition of a family for membership eligibility in Parks and Recreation. She asked the Commission to look at what works best for us and still protects the right of our members. Ms. DeForrest's staff researched what other cities similar to ours are utilizing as their definitions. We have recently been criticized for our current definition. It is important to note that we do make exceptions if families submit a letter briefly describing their situation. We are quite generous with our definition. The Commission discussed changing the title from Family to Household membership. The results of the discussion concluded that we will continue to classify these types of membership as "Family Memberships" not "Household Memberships." The Commission also discussed Washington University students saying they live with one or two people in their dorm so they should be able to join The Center under a "Family" membership. The Commission felt like not too many students will try to take advantage of this benefit. Ms. DeForrest will have her staff look into finding out what the definition of a family is at the Jewish Community Center. Ms. DeForrest will also re-write the definition of a family per the changes discussed and then the Commission will revisit the definition of a family at the next meeting.

### **Municipal Park Grant Proposals**

Municipal grant proposal deadlines are next month. The proposal is to do a quick project this year. The Parks department is interested in getting a comfort station - shelter for Hanley Park. We would be able to get a quick design for the structure. It would have two female and two male restrooms and would be designed to move if we ever wanted to remove it from the site. This simple parks structure with restrooms would add to the site. There would even be the possibility to have a fire place or barbeque grill. This project would be quick and relatively inexpensive. This would also allow the park usage to grow.

After a brief discussion of the grant process and the possible grant points we could bank for a larger project in the future, the Commission decided not to proceed with a Hanley Park comfort station. They would like to look into the possibility of applying for a grant next year to help with upcoming projects at the ice rink.

Ms. DeForrest discussed the fact that staff from University City approached her to see if the city of Clayton would be interested in getting involved in a driving range project at Ruth Park. The total cost of the project is \$300,000. University City is asking the city of Clayton for \$30,000, 10% of the cost of the project. This project will allow Clayton residents to utilize the driving range and play golf at a discounted rate. The Commission felt like this is a great thing for residents, especially because there currently is not a place very close by to practice golf. The Commission asked Ms. DeForrest to discuss the possibility of a contributing \$15,000 to the project by getting a second partner. The first response was do we need it and the second was does this make sense for the Parks department to participate in this venture. The Commission felt that this would be a nice addition to the recreational amenities available to the community.

### **Old Business / New Business**

Ms. Goodman noted that there is currently an initiative to kill the Honeysuckle. They are huge hedges that take over people's gardens and spread rapidly in parks. It also does not allow us to have a wide variety of plants, which is also why we do not have a variety of birds in our area. A lot of it has been hauled off from Oak Knoll Park. There has to be a huge community effort to get rid of these rapidly growing plants. There is a statewide initiative to address this problem.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise Ucinski

